

Appl. No. 09/960,595
Amdt. dated September 20, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 20, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-25. (canceled)

26. (currently amended) An electronic safe system comprising:
a plurality of electronic drop safes located within a local area; and
a wireless network connecting said plurality of safes into a local area network, each safe in the local area network including:

a controller; and

a bill acceptor interfacing with the controller, at least one of the bill acceptor and the controller ~~being~~ having firmware which is updatable through the wireless network.

27. (previously presented) The electronic safe system of claim 26 wherein the local area network includes a communications node for providing wireless communications to an off site host system.

28. (previously presented) The electronic safe system of claim 27 wherein the off site host system remotely monitors the plurality of electronic safes in the local area network.

29. (original) The electronic safe system of claim 27 wherein the communications node comprises a wireless modem.

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30. (previously presented) The electronic safe system of claim 26 wherein the local area network of electronic safes is connected to an external network.

31-108. (canceled)

109. (previously presented) The electronic safe system of claim 26 wherein the plurality of electronic safes receive currency data updates through the wireless network.

110. (previously presented) The electronic safe system of claim 109 wherein the currency data updates include counterfeiting data.

111. (previously presented) The electronic safe system of claim 109 wherein the currency data updates includes data relating to new currency.

112. (previously presented) The electronic safe system of claim 27 wherein the host system provides currency data updates to the plurality of electronic safes through the wireless network.

113. (previously presented) The electronic safe system of claim 26 wherein at least one safe in the local area network receives, through the wireless network, firmware updates to said at least one safe's controller.

114. (previously presented) The electronic safe system of claim 26 wherein each safe in the local area network receives, through the wireless network, algorithm updates for bill acceptance.

115. (previously presented) The electronic safe system of claim 26 wherein each safe in the local area network further includes a user interface for receiving inputs from a user of the safe.

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116. (previously presented) The electronic safe system of claim 115, wherein the user interface includes means for automatically identifying a user of the safe.

117. (previously presented) The electronic safe system of claim 116 wherein the means for automatically identifying a user of the safe comprises a radio frequency identification tag antenna for receiving radio frequency identifying data.

118. (previously presented) The electronic safe system of claim 115 wherein the user interface includes an optical interface for optically communicating with a personal digital assistant.

119. (previously presented) The electronic safe system of claim 26 wherein the electronic safe system is networked with at least one other locally networked electronic safe system over a wide area through a second, independent wireless network.

120. (previously presented) The electronic safe system of claim 119 wherein one of the electronic safes in the local area network functions as a local host capable of communicating over both the local area network and the wide area network.

121. (new) An electronic safe system comprising:
a plurality of electronic drop safes located within a local area; and
a network connecting said plurality of safes into a local area network, each safe in the local area network including:

a controller; and

a bill acceptor interfacing with the controller, at least one of the bill acceptor and the controller having firmware which is updatable through the network.